

Dates for your diary

17th December -

Christmas Dinner for the Over Sixties - Poulshot Village Hall

26th December -

Boxing Day Walk in Poulshot Help For Heroes Train Rides at Bulkington 19th January 2010 - Poushot Ladies Club - 7.30 p.m. at Poulshot Village Hall

Flower rota at St Peter's Poulshot

ADVENT No flowers
CHRISTMAS All helpers please
Jan 3rd & 10th Mrs Yvonne Baber
Jan 17th & 24th Mrs Angela Bullen
Jan 31st & Feb 7th Mrs Kate Amery
Feb 14th Mrs Suzie Quinn

A message from "The Raven"

Great Big Thanks from Nathalie & Jerry, the new Landlords at The Raven for the wonderful welcome we have received from our team of staff and the people of Poulshot.

We would also like to Thank Sue & Phillip for making the transition so smooth and wish them every happiness.

Our Christmas opening times are up in the Pub an there are still a few spaces for Christmas Day.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and Yours.

Ladies Club - November 2009

The ladies group had a very busy evening on Tuesday 17th November making lovely Christmas decorations. Lorna had made some beautiful decorations which she had hung on a white tree. They looked so lovely and wouldn't look out of place in Harrods, but she assured us they were very easy to make. She demonstrated how to make a woven heart and we then collected our paper and we all had a go. It took a while to choose what colours would look good together and with a little practice we all managed to produce a heart, although some definitely looked a lot better than others! Lorna then demonstrated how to make other decorations, a Christmas tree, an angel and even how to wrap presents with those special touches that make the present look too good to open. We are very grateful to Lorna for a very interesting evening and I look forward to seeing lots of home made decorations this year in Poulshot.

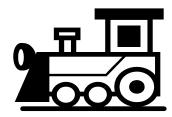
The next ladies club meeting will be our Christmas meal in The Raven. This is on the 15^{th} December 7.30 for 8p.m. Menus will be sent out shortly.

Marian Stimson

Ladies Club 2010

The first meeting of the Ladies Club in the New Year will be in the Village Hall on our usual 3rd Tuesday which is the 19th January. We will discuss plans for 2010 over wine and nibbles. Please come armed with ideas for fun things for us to do. For any new or reluctant Ladies of any age, we would be delighted to see you. We cater for all! Just come along and join us on 19th and you will be made most welcome!

BOXING DAY TRAIN RIDES -HELP FOR HEROES



The Great Bulkington Railway, supported by the West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers will be giving train rides to children and adults from 1 PM until about 4:30 PM on Boxing Day 26th December. We are located next to Bulkington Village Hall, corner of Mill Lane, Bulkington SN10 1SW. There is 1000 feet of 5 inch gauge railway track, a 40 foot long tunnel, signals and passengers ride on purpose built miniature railway carriages. We expect to be giving away lots of hot sausages and sweets and collecting donations for the armed services 'Help For Heroes Funds' - These funds help our injured service people. Last year we raised over £800 for this worthy cause. Wrap up well and come along and prepare to be generous with your donations. Toilet facilities will be available in the village hall. The village pub, the Well Inn will be open from noon to about 2 o'clock (drinks only).

Nev Boulton, Chief Engineer, (CRB clearance)

POULSHOT'S ANNUAL BOXING DAY WALK.

We plan to meet at the usual time of 2:00pm outside the Gravina's, 15 The Green (north east corner). This year Tim Gravina is organizing the route. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for a cross country ramble. Children and dogs should be accompanied. The walk will not be suitable for push chairs. Leads for dogs will be useful. We aim be back by about 4:00pm. Afterwards you shall be welcome at number 15 The Green for tea and mince pies. Come and enjoy the afternoon whatever the weather.

Diana Gravina

Rowde Primary School

At the time of writing we are only just into our new half term and are looking forward to the Rhythm of Life concert, the Christmas Fayre (4th December) and the Infant Nativity plays amongst many other festive activities

We can report that we managed to raise a magnificent £651 from the autumn Bag 2 School collection. So a very big thank you to everyone who contributed and please look out for details of our next collection in the spring.

Also, as an appreciation to those who have worked extremely hard to give Rowde a shop once more, we have raised £100 through a non-uniform day, which will be donated to the shop. We wish it every success and hope that it continues to get the support from the village that it deserves.

We had another sporting achievement just before half term when our Under 11 football team took part in the Mid Wilts Festival in Calne. They emerged as champions, winning a very closely contested final in a 'sudden death' penalty shoot out. They will join the Under 9's team in the county finals. Good luck everyone!

This just leaves us to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Deanne Elsden.



Welcome to our new Vicar.

On Tuesday 3rd November, a packed Holy Cross Church Seend, saw the Rev. Renée Coulson licensed as our new Vicar. The Bishop of Ramsbury, the Rt Rev Stephen Conway conducted the service and in front of clergy colleagues, parishoners and friends from near and far, Renée took the vows and promises asked of her and tolled the Church bell to signify the start of her ministry. After the service, a reception was held in the Community Centre at Seend with drinks and a wonderful spread of food provided by members of each of our three parishes.

Many of us may have seen her already and had a chance to chat as she is often to be seen walking around the Benefice with Jamie her four legged companion. We would like to say 'Welcome Renée' from the people of Poulshot and we hope that you will be very happy during the coming years as part of the village and the Benefice.

More Church news

Our new vicar Renee has invited us to Come and explore and find out more as we journey through Advent. Meetings at the Vicarage on 1st, 8th and 15th December at 730pm for just an hour.

All welcome

'The Badgers' Worton and Cheverell F.C. http://www.wortonandcheverellfc.co.uk/

It is quite interesting to review the website above on the 'blog' pages where you can review match reports from the various correspondents, whose creative writing skills and soccer humour, can easily equal those of any TV/press pundits. Key contact information is also available on this site for any new members who wish to join during the winter months.

The Under 8s played their 3rd game of the season on 15 November (known as Monsoon day), with both the Badgers and the away team Castle Combe players desperate to play in any conditions, and the parents/supporters not of the same attitude. The game took place at Worton 5 Lanes School, and from the beginning it was an entertaining game for all (including the supporters), with some great saves from both keepers. The Badgers keeper, Charlie, kept calm and controlled his area, whilst the defence with Captain Scott and the tenacious Casper holding firm. In midfiled, both Archie and Ryan set up wave after wave of opportunities for the forward Rafferty, who scored 4. A well done also for the sub, Ben, who came on with growing confidence and sticking to his task.

Meanwhile the first Adult team for the Club, continue to enjoy success. After 8 matches they are top of the Trowbridge and District League Div 3, with some key fixtures in December. The team welcome support from the community, so please come along to the 14.00 pm kick-offs at West Lavington Village Hall pitches: 5 December: v Bradford Town, 19 December v Trowbridge Wanderers. Steve Dagnall 01380-727976

<u>A thank you</u> ...

I was completely lost for words for a few moments at the end of Evensong on November 1st, my last Sunday as a Licensed Lay Minister in our benefice. As I made my way to the door to say Goodnight to the leaving congregation, Paulette asked me to join her at the front of Church, where she said some very nice words on behalf of the people of Poulshot and then presented me with a most generous present. I should like to thank most sincerely all those who contributed to that retirement gift; it was most kind. I have enjoyed my thirteen years as an L.L.M. and will certainly continue to be one of the St. Peter's congregation.

Many thanks to you all

Brian James

Poulshot, Seend and Bulkington Services January 2010

Sunday 3rd January

8.00am Holy Communion Seend
9.30am Family Eucharist Bulkington
11.15am Parish Eucharist Seend
6.00pm Evensong Poulshot



Sunday 10th January

8.00am	Holy Communion	Seend.
9.30am	Matins	Poulshot
11.15am	Parish Eucharist	Seend
6.00pm	Evensong	Bulkington

Sunday 17th January

6.00pm	Parish Eucharist	Poulshot
11.15am	Parish Eucharist	Seend
9.30am	Parish Communion	Bulkington
8.00am	Holy Communion	Seend

Sunday 24th January

8.00am	Holy Communion	Seend
9.30am	Family Eucharist	Poulshot
11.15am	Family Eucharist	Seend
6.00pm	Songs of Praise	Bulkington

Sunday 31st January

10.00am	Benefice Service	Seend
4.00pm	Benefice Christingle Service	Seend

GOD WITH (all of) US...

Let me start by saying a huge "THANK YOU" for the wonderfully warm welcome you gave me on the 2nd (November) and for all the help that has been given so far in helping me to settle into the Vicarage so quickly (mind, I still have boxes to unpack and tidying to do!). I feel so privileged to be a part of your communities and look forward to working with you for many years to come.

I can hardly believe we're already looking towards the church's season of Advent (the four weeks immediately prior to Christmas Day). The first Sunday of Advent this year falls on 29th November and we're planning a wonderful benefice service of Advent Carols and readings at Holy Cross at 6.00 pm that night. Please do come along if you can - bring your children too. At Advent the altar frontal is changed from green to purple. Why purple? Well, in biblical times that was the colour worn by kings but it is also the colour for penitence - a time of reflection, an opportunity to be sorry for those things "that we have left undone ... which we ought to have done" and those other things that we "have done that we ought not to have done" - to quote the General Confession in the Book of Common Prayer. But in addition to being a time of reflection, Advent is a time of expectation, of waiting for the birth of "the long expected Jesus", of Emmanuel, God with us, which we will celebrate at Christmas, of course. Christians accept that Christ's first coming over 2,000 years ago only makes sense in the light of his promise to come again, and it's that belief that gives rise to this period of anticipation.

The ministry team serving these villages tries very hard to be the presence of God with us - not only on Sundays when we meet together in our village churches, where a warm welcome awaits all who cross its threshold, but also during the week as we try to reach out into the community. There are so many people who beaver away in the background working hard to bring our communities together in many different and enjoyable ways, and making us a caring and sharing people of God. All these things are signs of God's presence with us, here and now.

And my immediate plans for the villages? Well, my first priority is to visit as many of you as possible, to hear about your concerns as well as your joys -to share them with you. I've heard it said so many times in the past that "the church" doesn't care, because "the vicar" hasn't bothered to call! Please be patient - we'll do what we can - but there are far more of you than there of those in your ministry team. So, if you would like a visit, or if you know of others who are sick and housebound, elderly, lonely, or in hospital and who would welcome a visit: then please do let us know. ... and now for the boring bit... I think you know that I am officially your part time priest: certainly Bishop Stephen made that very clear last Tuesday.

But my ministry is also my life-blood. My official "working days" will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays (as well as Sundays, of course) and I plan to use those days for the most formal part of my ministry - meetings and so on. For the rest of the time - other than Fridays, which will be my regular (though not inflexible) day off to go walking - I'll be here for you. It would be good if we could agree a 9.00 pm cut off point though (except in emergencies, of course).

As I walk my dog, Jamie (a soft-coated wheaten terrier) around the villages do please stop me and introduce yourselves (you'll probably need to do it several times until I remember!)

May God bless you richly, and those you love, this Advent, this Christmastide - and indeed the New Year too!

... on the lighter side

Having just visited the Fun Station at Bulkington and watched the children busily drawing pictures, I was reminded of this story:

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute." God bless.



The Devizes Deanery 2009/2010 The Bite-size Learning Programme

Music in Worship: 7.30 pm Tuesday 26th January 2010

"Gregorian Chant to Graham Kendrick"

led by Mr Chris Totney

at inDauntsey's School, West Lavington
The session is in the Farmer Music School, top floor.

"Encouraging, supporting and learning from elderly people" 7.30 pm Monday 11th January 2010 led by the Revd. Dr. Graham Southgate at Edington Parish Hall

Opportunities for the church family of the Devizes Deanery to learn and grow together.

Carol Service Seend Holy Cross Sunday December 20th.

With a risk of jumping on the Supermarket band wagon - Christmas is coming!! Calling all singers and instrumentalists! Plans are in hand to augment our regular music making. For the last couple of years an enthusiastic team of singers have come together to form a choir for the village's Carol service. This is always very well received and gives all involved a real Christmas buzz. Now is the time to make yourself known if you would like to be involved and help make the Christmas choir a success. You do not need to be a music reader or necessarily have any experience of part singing to join. All that is required is a little time, commitment and enthusiasm. We normally work on having four practices in the weeks leading up to the service . This year the practices are on:

Friday 27th November Friday 4th December Friday 11th December Friday 18th December

All rehearsals are in Holy Cross Church starting at 7.30pm finishing approx. 8.30pm. We will need a rehearsal late afternoon on the day which could lead straight on to the service. I think we did this last time. Alternatively we could rehearse at about 2pm and then have time to go home, change and thaw out before the service starts! There need be no limit to the number of adults and older children taking part as long as we can maintain a balance between the voices. As well as our, family service youth orchestra, we would welcome more orchestral players to help lead the congregation in carols too. Please make contact either through the Rector, or the Springates on 01380 828294 - e mail tutti.springate@btinternet.com

SEEND AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Fred Swift joined us again this month and once again proved to be an informative and entertaining speaker. Fred hoped he would not repeat anything from his previous visit, in which he was successful. He brought with him some straw skeps, the original hives, which he makes by sewing bundles of lengths of straw in a dome using a tube through which to thread the straw. This simple construction lasts for years and he and some colleagues have, in situ, used the waste straw in corn circles to make skeps, to the great interest of circle enthusiasts. Apparently one circle appeared in the shape of a beehive but he can't explain that.

This year he collected 86 wild swarms and gave away 60 to new beekeepers of whom there are now many more; Fred feels they lack experience and would like to see some form of apprenticeship. The importance of bees lies in their pollination of plants and crops, the collection of honey being a useful side product for us, and he suggested growing borage and phacelia in the garden as they seem to attract large numbers of bees and other insects. He finished by doing roaring trade with his various honey products.

The winner of the competition for honey cake was Tim Vince but they were all delicious! The visit to Cranborne Manor will be on Tuesday 13th July. We were also reminded to get our bulbs planted ready for the Spring competition. The schedules will be available at the next meeting in December when Milly Carmichael will be talking about Christmas Greenery and the competition will be for a festive table centre. In January Alison Peterson from Lackham will be telling us about Organic Pest Control and the competition will be for the most ingenious pest trap!

It was good to have some new members this month but non-members are always welcome.